

**Crown of the Continent Research Learning Center
Roundtable May 28, 2003**

Education – issues and themes

Large Group Discussion – need to use LC to build advocates for science

Target groups = communities; college and grad students; K-12 teachers

Small Group Notes: need to define audiences: local and national

LC needs to focus beyond park boundaries in topics and educational strategies – not just local / internal audiences; but keep a balance with park needs

Providing an educational forum – the CCRLC can be very valuable in connecting existing groups to one another

Biosphere / World Heritage are important!! These designations can be brought out within the context of science and resource needs – this is WHY we need to know more. We have a very special place and a charge to protect it.

Connection to research – bring park science and resource issues to the forefront

- Update existing environmental education materials to include relevant research results from projects in the park and surrounding ecosystem
- Emergent research topics can be used to guide development of new courses
- Educate public as to the value of scientific knowledge
- Historically, parks are for recreation, but now want to think about contribution to society; elevate awareness about what parks mean; better communication can lead to enhanced science and environmental literacy

Promote systems level thinking

- Introduce concepts of change and scales of change in the landscape (glacial processes) as well as in the flora and fauna (ecosystem change, interaction with climate, invasives, fire, etc.)
- Biodiversity and fragmented landscapes – GNP is a relatively intact ecosystem. What variables exist to allow this? (e.g. size, management strategies)

Stewardship & wilderness

- Human impacts on the environment
- Climatic shifts and how that is affecting the park and surrounding ecosystem
- What will the GNP of 2050 and beyond be like?
- What steps are needed to insure the park's ecological integrity into the future?
- Educating about an din wilderness offers the best method for conveying stewardship for the land

Emphasize cultural landscapes and diversity

- Teach history of human activities, interactions, and experiences in the American west that reveal changes in societal attitudes about land and its uses
- Present Native American values and history as they relate to understanding and living in harmony with the environment
- GNP's Peace park designation embraces the reality that the environment does not operate with political boundaries.

Facilitation – Logistics of educating inside the park

- Partnerships require support both ways
- What obstacles exist for education inside the park? (wilderness, alpine, group limitations, etc.)